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34. The cetane improver of claim 29, wherein the ester is formed by the *conversion of triglycerides into a fatty acid* transesterification of vegetable oil.

35. The cetane improver of claim 29, wherein the cetane improver is an additive for diesel fuel.

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36. A composition comprising:
the cetane improver of claim 1; and
diesel fuel.

37. A cetane improver, the improver comprising:
a nitrated triglyceride, the nitrated triglyceride being derived from a naturally occurring triglyceride; and

at least one nitrate group attached to at least one secondary carbon of the nitrated triglyceride.

38. The cetane improver of claim 37, wherein the nitration is accomplished by direct nitration.

39. The cetane improver of claim 37, wherein the nitration is accomplished by methoxylation of at least one double bond of the fatty acid *and subsequent nitration of the* secondary alcohols.

40. The cetane improver of claim 37, wherein the nitration is accomplished by hydration of at least one double bond of the fatty acid *to a secondary alcohol* and subsequent nitration of the secondary alcohols.

41. The cetane improver of claim 37, wherein the ester is formed by a process including the hydrolysis of vegetable oil followed by esterification of fatty acids formed by the hydrolysis.

42. The cetane improver of claim 37, wherein the ester is formed by the transesterification of vegetable oil.

43. The cetane improver of claim 37, wherein the cetane improver is an additive for diesel fuel.

44. The additive of claim 43, providing more than 90% of the cetane enhancement and 50% of the lubricity enhancement of the diesel fuel.

45. A composition comprising:

the cetane improver of claim 37; and

diesel fuel.

46. A Method of improving the properties of diesel fuel comprising:

preparing a nitrated C₁-C₄ ester of a fatty acid, wherein the ester is derived from a

naturally occurring triglyceride, and wherein at least one nitrate group is attached to at

least one secondary carbon of the ester; and

adding the nitrated ester to the diesel fuel.

47. The method of claim 46, wherein the cetane of the diesel fuel is improved.

48. The method of claim 46, wherein the cetane of the diesel fuel is improved more than 90%.

49. The method of claim 46, wherein the lubricity of the diesel fuel is improved.

50. The method of claim 46, wherein the lubricity of the diesel fuel is improved by at least 50%.

51. The method of claim 46, wherein the detergency of the diesel fuel is improved.

52. ^A Method of improving the properties of diesel fuel comprising:

preparing a nitrated triglyceride, the nitrated triglyceride being derived from a naturally occurring triglyceride, and wherein at least one nitrate group attached to at least one secondary carbon of the nitrated triglyceride; and

adding the nitrated triglyceride to the diesel fuel.

53. The method of claim 52, wherein the cetane of the diesel fuel is improved.

54. The method of claim 52, wherein the cetane of the diesel fuel is improved more than 90%.

55. The method of claim 52, wherein the lubricity of the diesel fuel is improved.

56. The method of claim 52, wherein the detergency of the diesel fuel is improved.

RESPONSE

Reconsideration of the present application respectfully is requested. Claims 1-28 have been cancelled. Claims 29-56 are pending. No new matter has been added to the present application. Claims 29-56 are believed to be in condition for allowance and such favorable action respectfully is requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have cancelled claims 1-28. As such, Applicant requests withdrawal of the §112 rejection of these claims.